

(received via e-mail)

From: Mattie Rudinow
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Date: 3/2/2009 4:45 PM
Subject: Support for the Rubicon Trail Cleanup and Abatement Order

I support the draft Cleanup and Abatement Order issued on January 23, 2009 by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to the El Dorado County Department of Transportation. Destructive and unchecked off-road vehicle use results in ongoing resource damage on the Rubicon Trail. To stop increased erosion, soil compaction, and damage to plants and animals the Regional Board must act.

If adopted, the order would be a positive first step to prevent degrading water quality in the area and alleviate the threat to human and environmental health. Surrounding the Rubicon are many national forest lands. These areas are being irreparably damaged by off-roaders and the failure of the Forest Service to implement and enforce strong regulations.

I urge you also to close the Rubicon Trail until such time as a full environmental review can be conducted. Even if the Regional Board determines that complete trail closure is not necessary at least the trail should be closed to all wet season use and any ongoing use should be limited to street legal vehicles. Wet season use of these fragile areas is particularly damaging and contributes heavily to the sediment discharge and non-street-legal vehicles tend to cause greater damage than street legal vehicles. the Regional Board and staff for your excellent assessment of the impacts on the Rubicon from off-road vehicle use and initiating the process needed to stop this damage from continuing. I also applaud you for finally taking action -- action that is long overdue -- and ask that the draft Cleanup and Abatement Order be formally adopted.

Mattie Rudinow